

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/065,336

Examiner

Richard Woo

Applicant(s)

COFFY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed September 02, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,6-12 and 16-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 October 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09-07-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- 1) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over Andreasson (US 2002/0057824 A1).

As for Claim 1, Andreasson discloses a method comprising:
obtaining a registered digital pen meter (105) registered to the user (see Fig. 1);
handwriting a return address field (see Fig. 1) remotely;
handwriting a mail piece identifier remotely (the user's own handwriting evidencing the identifier);
facilitating the transfer of digital pen data to a server (see Fig. 1); and
placing the mail piece in the mail stream.

However, Andreasson does not expressly disclose the method further including:
handwriting a postage value field on the mail piece; and
selecting a class of service, wherein an account of the user is debited after the postal value filed is handwritten on the mail piece.

As for Claim 12, Andreasson discloses a method comprising:
obtaining a registered digital pen meter (105) registered to the user (see Fig. 1);
handwriting a return address field (see Fig. 1) remotely;

handwriting a mail piece identifier remotely (the user's own handwriting evidencing the identifier);
facilitating the transfer of digital pen data to a server (see Fig. 1); and
placing the mail piece in the mail stream.

However, Andreasson does not specifically disclose the method further including:
obtaining customer data from the mail piece and determining a mail piece user identification using the customer data;
determining a mail piece user profile for the mail piece using the processed mail identifier and the mail user identifier;
comparing the mail piece user profile to the user profile; and
verifying payment of the postage using the comparison result.

As for Claim 24, Andreasson discloses a method comprising:
obtaining a registered digital pen meter (105) registered to the user (see Fig. 1);
handwriting a return address field (see Fig. 1) remotely;
handwriting a mail piece identifier remotely (the user's own handwriting evidencing the identifier);
facilitating the transfer of digital pen data to a server (see Fig. 1); and
placing the mail piece in the mail stream.

However, Andreasson does not expressly disclose the method further including:

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storing the mail piece identification image in a record associated with a user;
searching the database using the processed mail piece identification image using
an image best fit search; and
verifying payment of postage using the database search result.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2) The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

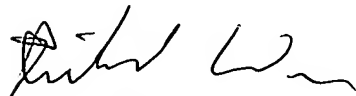
"Paper at the Cutting Edge:" is cited to show a digital postcards, wherein a user purchases some digital paper postcards from a local postal office, writes a messages and address on the postcards with a digital pen and a printing plant prints the card with the user's handwriting.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Woo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
AU 3629
November 23, 2004